

FLW 280

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
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1. The "Mikhalkovo" and "Margarata" Fluorspar Mines are located in the Krichim area (N 42-03, E 24-26). They are exploited by "Naridni Izkoraemi" State Enterprise, of Sofia, and are directed by Zhirov (fnu), a technician.

The Mikhalkovo Mine

2. The "Mikhalkovo" Mine, No. 1, is located about 1.5 kilometers east of the Devin-Krichim road in the Petrovsko valley. The mine was discovered by German engineers during 1950-1951, but was not then intensively exploited. During 1948, the mine was reopened, using approximately 45 miners, 10-12 purifiers, and 10 laborers.
3. The "Mikhalkovo" Mine consists of approximately 10 shafts (depth unknown), which are located on either side of the Petvarsko River, at a height of 100 to 150 meters above the river.
4. The ore from this mine is purified by hand. Large pieces of rock are broken in order to separate the ore, while sand containing ore is washed. The purified ore is carried to the Petvarsko road on muleback and is loaded into trucks there.
5. The "Mikhalkovo" Mine produces about 250 tons of 80-percent ore each month. The director of the mine is Tsvetko Toshev

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The Margarata Mine

6. The "Margarata" Mine, No. 2, is located east of the Vucha River, about one kilometer north of the confluence of the Fotinska River and the Vucha River.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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7. This mine has three shafts, the deepest of which is 50 meters. The mined ore is purified near the mine and is carried to the highway on muleback over a primitive bridge spanning the Vucha River.
8. About 40 miners, five purifiers, and five laborers are employed at the mine. The monthly production is about 200 tons of 60-70-percent ore. The director of the mine is Georgi Tsvetanski.
9. Two miners, the Vetremski brothers (fnu) from Malko Bel'ovo, Pazardzhik, were killed by a cave-in at the "Margarata" Mine during 1951.

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Miscellaneous

10. All mining in the two mines is done by hand with primitive instruments. Explosives, however, are commonly used. The ore is moved from the shafts in wheelbarrows or in a few handcarts.
11. The mines have no ventilation systems. Wooden roof props are scarce and often lacking.
12. Workers in the mines earn about 30 leva per day. They work in two shifts. Living quarters for the workmen are being built at the "Mikhalkovo" Mine. Workers at the "Margarata" mine live in an abandoned inn and at two farms called "Neychev" and "Margarata." There is usually a shortage of workers at the mines during the summer months.
13. Development of the mines is slow because of limited financial and technical support, because of the terrain, and because the ore is found in pockets and not in broad veins, so that many short shafts must be dug. New pockets of ore have been discovered in the area of the mines (exact locations not known to informant), and plans for further exploitation of the deposits are being studied.
14. The ore is taken to Krichim in trucks. Each truck carries a load of about four tons; the load is 30 centimeters deep. At Krichim the ore is transferred to standard open railroad cars. Most of the ore is shipped to Czechoslovakia, but some goes to the USSR. The load in each railroad car is about 70 centimeters deep. the ore is used to raise the temperature of steel smelting furnaces from 2,000° to 3,000° centigrade.
15. When mined, the ore is a brittle, crystalline formation varying in color from a dark blue and green to light blue and green and brass. It loses color after being exposed to the sun for three or four hours and drying out; the green-blue becomes a dark green, and the brass color remains unchanged. When being purified, the ore is broken into pieces about 10 centimeters by 10 centimeters in size.

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